

Testimony of

Tamara Carey

South Windsor Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I have taught kindergarten for many years and have seen the curriculum change dramatically for our youngest learners. Many of our students who have “late” birthdays struggle with the demands of the rigor in kindergarten. I urge you to change the age requirement of kindergarten entrance. I also urge you to consider a pandemic service credit for those teachers who worked through the pandemic and now have retired or are retiring before 2026. By excluding those teachers it tells me that you are not truly appreciative of their service during those challenging years and you only want to keep a teacher shortage from getting worse by forcing teachers who are at retirement age to keep teaching.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

